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Quick Strokes

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Stars shining over Corvallis

From Brad Lessley by telephone

Janet Phillips, an Oregon State University student and clerical worker, in retraining on a Dvorak-arranged keyboard, had attained, by April 25, 1977, after 32 and one-half hours of it, a score of 60 gross words per minute. On a three-minute timed writing, she made four errors, or seven tenths of one per cent.

Eight students are in a course for credit at the university at Corvallis, and the arrangement on the keyboard for seven of them is that of the Camwil element for IBM Selectric typewriters. One uses another element, obtained on a special order from the same maker, with an arrangement that is closer to the ASK diagram which has appeared several times in Quick Strokes.

The course will be offered again in the Summer and Fall quarters of 1977.

Four students used the Dvorak manual titled Synergistic Typing and completed the first nine lessons in seven hours, for an average score of 27 and one-half words per minute. Four others went through the first five lessons in the Simplified Keyboard Supplement in five and a half hours, for an average score of 25.

The course is oriented toward the information processing trade, and the instructor, Brad Lessley, of Rancho Cordova, California, believes that, because of the frequent breaks between bursts of input, pretrained Dvorak-skilled operators will perform at a pace that is close to their racing paces, so that the scores on three-minute timed writings are a good measure of attainment.

Large-scale private employer announces fair hiring for Dvorak-skilled operators

"IBM is doing its part for the simplified keyboard arrangement. According to the standards office in Franklin Lakes, N.J., any prospective IBM employee who has skill on this type of keyboard can take the IBM hiring tests, and if he passes, he will be hired in turn with operators on the traditional QWERTY arrangement. The employee does not have to offer to provide his own machine; IBM will provide one with an ASK arrangement."

The quoted paragraph is from the back cover of Word Processing Report, Volume 12, Number 5, March 1, 1977, \$5.50 at Geyer-McAllister Publications, 51 Madison Ave., New York NY 10010.

Dvorak-skilled operators and students should take note that "ASK" and "simplified" are the terms that are understood at IBM branches. Please go and take the tests. The first chance is not your last chance. Pace yourself -- good accuracy at a moderate pace is what employers want and is what you have been racing to develop.

The Corvallis program is a practical application as well as a training project. Employed students apply their new skill on the job.

A doctoral dissertation, by Lessley, and probably other documentation as well, may be expected. The source will be School of Business, OSU, Corvallis, Oregon 97331.

Dvorak pretraining from scratch in Pierce County, Washington

By William J. Smith

All students should be given their choice of learning the regular or simplified keyboard before learning to type. I have started such an invitation and program at Clover Park High School in Lakewood Center, Washington.

We have IBM Selectrics, and the school has purchased 10 elements for the students to use for learning. This way we can change any of our typewriters from regular to simplified or back again with little trouble.

I have had no trouble teaching both ways in the same classroom. I had five students during the first trimester in the fall and one during the second trimester. I hope for larger numbers but I have to be careful that I don't have more than ten at a time since this is all of the elements I have.

Mr. Traver regrets

Barry A. Traver regrets to announce that he does not expect to be available for further consultation work until June of 1978.

Traver is pastor of the Talmage Memorial Fourth Reformed Church in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and is also preparing a thesis for an advanced degree at Westminster Theological Seminary.

Our condolences go to the Traver family on the death of his mother, which occurred in October, 1976. On the other hand, we congratulate Barry and his wife, Sharon, on the birth of their son, John Calvin Traver, a more recent event.

Pennsylvanians in search of consultation on making the switch to keyboard efficiency may call J. F. White at 609-466-1129 or Augusta Silverman at 216-382-8436.

Two office models with ASK in stock for quick delivery

Two, and only two, models of SCM typewriter are in stock for delivery in about two weeks after the order and payment are received. These are the Secretarials C-16 and C-13.

Both have all office features, including cartridge ribbon, power carriage return, five settings for line spacing, and a half-space key. The C-16 takes a sheet 15.1 inches wide, the C-13 takes one 12.1 inches. The color combination is Shalimar grey and Icelandic white.

They have already begun to move -- one that we know of, to a lady in Jefferson City, Missouri, who will retrain on the ASK variant of the Dvorak keyboard arrangement, on the same machine that she will use to do contract transcription for court reporters. Another has gone to Augusta Silverman, of Cleveland, Ohio, specifically for use in promoting practical applications of Dvorak-arranged equipment.

Miss Silverman is an agent for Quick Strokes. Telephone 216-382-8436.

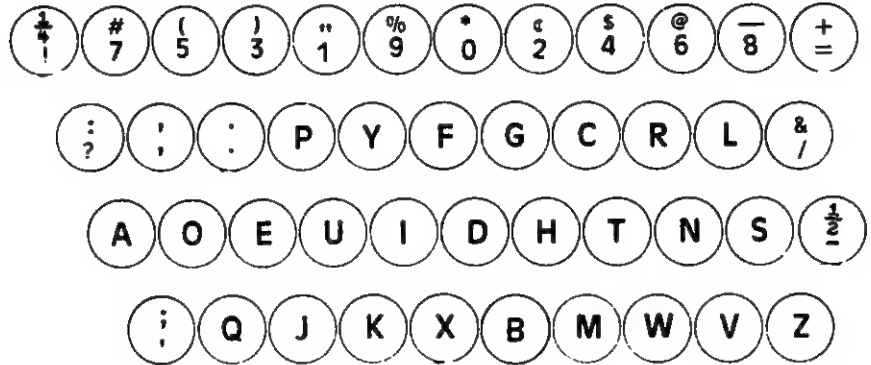
In ordering, please specify pica or elite type. Address Speedy Keyboard Enterprises, Inc., Box 643, West Sacramento, CA 95691, and enclose check or money order for \$488 for the C-16 or \$454.50 for the C-13.

For delivery in 12 to 16 weeks, a wide selection of type faces is available in an ASK arrangement on the two Secretarial models and also on other models, portables among them.

Reprint of a great classic

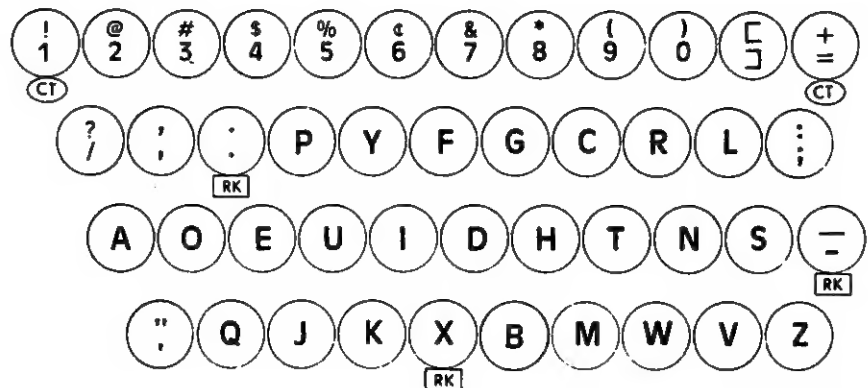
A "how to" book, A Practical Experiment, by the U. S. Navy, will be sent as a premium on each renewal or new subscription to Quick Strokes, \$5 for one year, received at Box 643, West Sacramento, CA 95691, by September 20, 1977. How to do what? Bring assured competence to marginal operators of alphanumeric keyboards! With it, the new, 5-sheet "History of the Dvorak Alphanumeric Keyboard Arrangement since 1944" by Philip Davis.

At right, keyboard diagram for typewriters converted with the Camwil element — fits Selectrics. Order from Speedy Keyboard Ent. Inc., Box 643, West Sacramento, CA 95691. Send \$100 and specify pica or elite type. Starting manual Simplified Keyboard Supplement included.



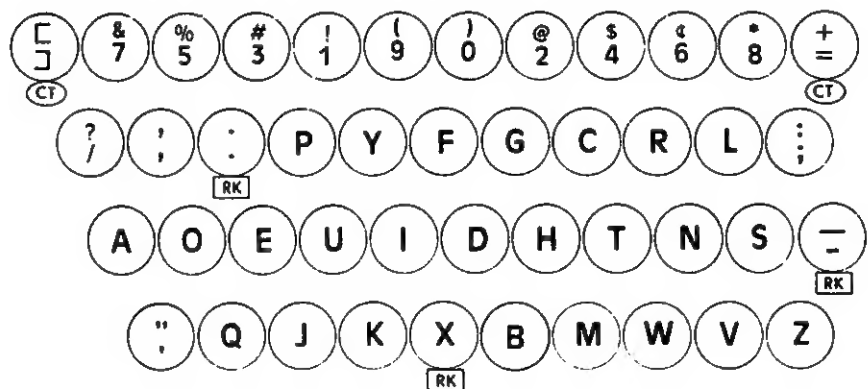
At right, ASK, originated by SCM Corp., now in the public domain. Possibly easier for experienced operators in retraining. Many models available, two for quick delivery, Secretarials C-16 and C-13, at \$488 and \$454.50. Specify pica or elite type.

CT—Changeable Type™



RK—Repeat Key

At right, DSK, available on type bar typewriters on special order and on new Selectrics if you specify it. On Camwil elements in a large order or a pooled one. Permits stroking the low digits with the forefingers.



If a de facto standard rational keyboard arrangement can be said to have been established at all, then the Camwil element diagram, at the top, above, is it. We know of no applications of other variants that are on a larger scale than the one at Corvallis.

The nontraditional pairing of characters on keys stands in its way, however. The pairing in both the lower diagrams, called here ASK and DSK,

gives the customer a far wider selection of type faces and of sets of characters.

A Camwil element with an ASK or a DSK arrangement would provide just as quick conversion and retroconversion and would conform to what is available, built in, on new Selectrics. The set of characters is what is on the IBM element that you mount; the pairing is ASK or DSK.

"Exotic," computer maker says, but "improved"

ECD Corp. mails a brochure which, on page 2, says, under Keyboard, "Number of keys: 80. Method of interpretation: The keyboard is polled by the CPU and interpreted by the key keyboard handler program. This permits any key to have any function. Layout: Programmable. While a standard typewriter or teletype layout can be used, exotic keyboards can also be programmed, such as Kana Japanese, Hebrew, Greek, APL, and the Dvorak Improved Keyboard."

Under "Keycaps" we read, "Releg- endable. If the keyboard is repro- grammed, the legends can be changed by removing the transparent covers and changing inserts."

ECD includes this feature in their Micromind at the base price of \$987.54. Other computers, many of them of small bulk, too, offer this capability, but ECD is the first

maker to send a brochure to Quick Strokes that says so. We hope they sell a trainload!

ECD is at 196 Broadway, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139, and their director of marketing is E. W. Costello.

Blackburn in Guinness again

Page 488, last three lines, Guinness Book of World Records, 15th Edition, is the new citation for Barbara Blackburn's world championship record for sustained, fast, accurate typing from typed or printed copy or recorded dic- tation. The Dvorak variant arrange- ment that she uses corresponds to the diagram that is labeled ASK on page 3 of this issue of Quick Strokes.

Lenore Fenton (MacClain)'s one- minute record of 182 words, set like- wise at a Dvorak keyboard, has not yet been presented with the "independent verification" that Guinness requires.